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EUROPE

1. FINLAND: Communists may be included in new Cabinet--
US Minister Cabot in Helsinki has learned from various quarters that responsible businessmen, government officials, and politicians are considering the inclusion of Communists in unimportant positions in the new Cabinet. Cabot adds that the apparent Finnish intention would be to place the Communists in positions where they will be "well hedged in." The Minister expresses the opinion that there may be some validity to the argument that the inclusion of the Communists in the Cabinet will "draw their domestic political sting" by making it difficult for the Communists to avoid responsibility for damage to the Finnish economy resulting from their irresponsible agitation. In reviewing the "obviously formidable" objections to including Communists in the Finnish Cabinet, Cabot points out that the Communists would try, regardless of government precautions, to gain control of the government. The Minister also expresses concern regarding the unfavorable effect the reversal of Finland's attitude toward the Communists would have in other European countries, particularly those where Communists had once been Cabinet members.

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State Dept. review completed

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